

**REMARKS**

This paper responds to the Office Action mailed July 9, 1999 with reference to the above identified application. By this response claim 1 is cancelled. Claims 2 and 5 are cancelled and replaced respectively with new independent claims 9 and 10 submitted herewith. New independent claims 11 and 12 are submitted. Claims 3 and 6 are amended. Claims 3, 4, and 6 to 12 are in the application.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nounin et al. As claim 1 has been cancelled in this response, this matter is now moot.

Claims 2 to 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ketseoglou et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The invention relates to a system and method of providing roaming facilities for cellular mobile phone subscribers whereby a subscriber may make and receive calls outside his dedicated 'home' network area, i.e. outside that area where his particular protocol is supported. Applicant has addressed this issue by providing a system which can support a number of different protocols and can thus provide service to users of those protocols. In Applicant's system, only one base station per cell is required as that base station can operate in any one of the predetermined set of protocols. Applicant has achieved this facility by providing a base station having a soft radio unit that is operated as a slave via a selected one of a number of protocol control systems. Further, Applicant has provided a base station controller which can adapt to the particular protocol by downloading operating instructions for that protocol from a store. This enables a variety of different protocols to be accommodated via a single network rather than a corresponding plurality of networks being operated in parallel.

Ketseoglou et al. teach a communications system which supports multiple TDMA or TDD communication protocols. However, Ketseoglou et al. teach the use of first and second base station units which communicate in respective first and second sets of time slots in a composite frame. Effectively, Ketseoglou et al. provide two networks operating in parallel, each handling

its own set of subscribers. Each base station unit is dedicated to its particular protocol, and there is no suggestion that it should operate in any other protocol. Indeed, Ketseoglou et al. teach the provision of stacked base stations in a single cell. Ketseoglou et al. provide no teaching of Applicants' base station arrangement in which a soft radio unit is controlled by a selected one of a number of protocol control units, nor do they teach the identification of a protocol by the base station and the downloading of operating instructions from a store so as to operate the base station controller in a manner consistent with that protocol for servicing the mobile terminal via the base station. The reader of Ketseoglou et al. is thus provided with no teaching that would lead towards the present invention as defined by the amended claims submitted herewith.

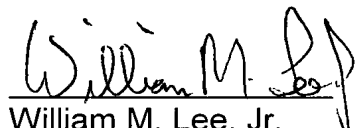
Applicant has studied the prior art made of record and not relied on, but has come to the conclusion that this art does not prejudice the patentability of the amended claims submitted herewith. Examiner's action in drawing the art to Applicant's attention is however appreciated. It is noted that the first two references mentioned in this section have, in fact, been relied upon.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner's further and favorable reconsideration is urged.

Also, since this response is being sent during the fifth month following the Examiner's Office Action, an appropriate petition for extension of time is being submitted concurrently herewith.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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